

# RUSSIAN RIVER COUNTY SANITATION DISTRICT **NEWS**

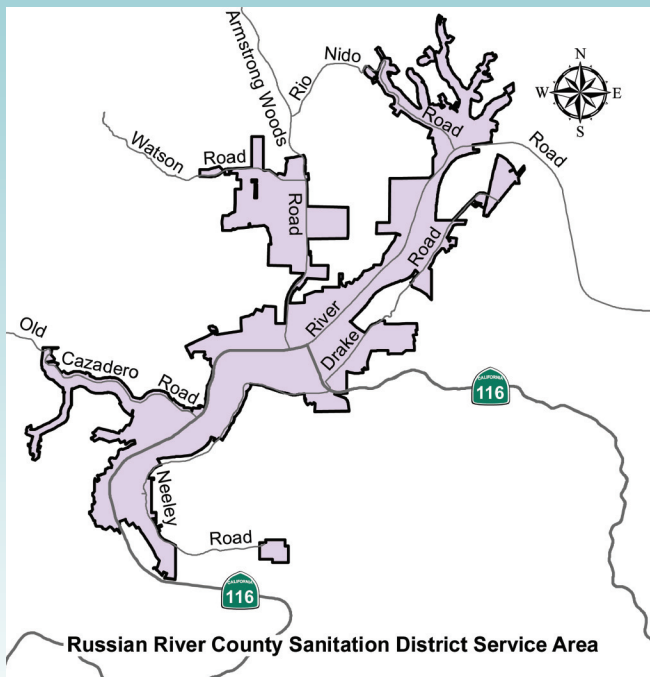
## INSIDE FALL 2013

- 2 Budget Update
- 2 How to Contact Your Board
- 3 Employee Spotlight
- 3 Watch What You Flush
- 3 FOG
- 4 Efficiency Programs



The Russian River County Sanitation District ultraviolet disinfection system, above.

## About Your Sanitation District

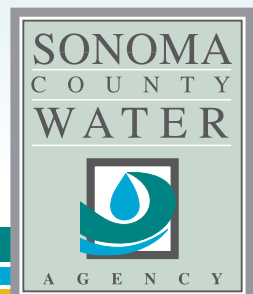


During a 1995 restructuring of the Sonoma County government, the Sonoma County Water Agency (Water Agency) assumed responsibility for managing and operating 11 different sanitation districts and zones. Currently the Water Agency manages and operates eight different sanitation districts and zones throughout Sonoma County, including the Russian River County Sanitation District (District).

The District, which began operating in 1983, serves 3,161 Equivalent Single-Family Dwellings within a 2,700-acre service area.

The sanitation facility has a design capacity of 710,000 gallons per day (average daily dry weather flow) and treats wastewater to tertiary treatment levels (also referred to as advanced water treatment). High-quality tertiary treated recycled water is an important source of water and its use offsets potable water demands.

Between October 1 and May 14, recycled water from the treatment plant is discharged into the Russian River. Between May 15 and September 30, recycled water is used to irrigate the Northwood Golf Course and forests adjacent to the plant. ●



# Biological Nutrient Removal Project to Begin This Fall

The District is making new treatment facility investments to ensure that its treated wastewater meets all regulatory requirements for discharges to the Russian River.

The District's Board of Directors approved the \$2.4 million contract to build a Biological Nutrient Removal (BNR) Project at the treatment plant near Guerneville.

The project will bring the plant into compliance with upcoming effluent discharge limits for ammonia and nitrogen. In addition, inclusion of phosphorous removal will meet the further goal of exceeding environmental regulations, public health standards and address future regulation by providing a flexible operations.

The project will create the new Modified Ludzak Ettinger process. Even with the increase in mechanization, energy demand will not grow since the new blowers and aeration diffusers will be far more efficient than those in the existing

aeration system. Where possible the existing plant influent and aeration piping will be re-routed and partially re-used.

Construction is scheduled to begin in September of 2013, with an estimated completion date of January 2015. For further information contact Tom Hammond, W.A. Engineer III, 707- 524-1178, [Thomas.Hammond@scwa.ca.gov](mailto:Thomas.Hammond@scwa.ca.gov)

The District capital improvement program also includes the following undertakings:

- Tertiary filter rehabilitation;
- Installation of filter effluent flow meters;
- Emergency pond pump project; and
- Meter vault valve project. ●



## Regulatory Compliance

Wide-ranging regulatory standards for public health and the environment are set by the California State Water Resources Control Board and in turn implemented through the Regional Water Quality Control Boards (RWQCB).

The District operates under a unique, individualized permit from the North Coast RWQCB that sets the requirements for wastewater operations and recycled water use.

Complying with these often-costly regulations result in District capital improvement projects and increased rates.

For more information about the California Water Boards, go to this website link: [www.waterboards.ca.gov](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov). ●

## Budget Update

The budget year starts on July 1 of each year and runs through June 30 of the following year. For District customers, the Fiscal Year 2013/2014 flat rate fee is \$1,253 per year per "equivalent single-family dwelling" (ESD). For more information, contact Manuel Olvera, Engineering Technician III, or Candi Bryon, Department Analyst, at 707.526.5370. ●

## How to Contact Your Board

The District's Board of Directors is the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors. Your Board members and their e-mail addresses include the following:

- First District Supervisor/Director Susan Gorin — [Susan.Gorin@sonoma-county.org](mailto:Susan.Gorin@sonoma-county.org)
- Second District Supervisor/Director David Rabbitt — [David.Rabbitt@sonoma-county.org](mailto:David.Rabbitt@sonoma-county.org)
- Third District Supervisor/Director Shirlee Zane — [Shirlee.Zane@sonoma-county.org](mailto:Shirlee.Zane@sonoma-county.org)
- Fourth District Supervisor/Director Mike McGuire — [MikeMcguire@sonoma-county.org](mailto:MikeMcguire@sonoma-county.org)
- Fifth District Supervisor/Director Efren Carrillo — [Efren.Carrillo@sonoma-county.org](mailto:Efren.Carrillo@sonoma-county.org)

Directors may also be contacted by phone: 707.565.2241 and fax: 707.565.3778.

The Board normally holds its regular meetings on Tuesdays, beginning at 8:30 a.m., in the Board of Supervisors Chambers, 575 Administration Drive, Room 102A, Santa Rosa, CA 95403. For more information, go online to [www.sonomacountywater.org/board-of-directors](http://www.sonomacountywater.org/board-of-directors). ●



# Employee Spotlight: Ensuring Businesses Protect Treatment Plant and Environment

Although it's not the television show CSI, Susan Keach as an environmental compliance inspector at the Water Agency conducts investigations and ensures enforcement of local, state and federal water quality regulations to keep the public and environment safe from harm.

In her job, Susan works closely with industrial and commercial businesses throughout the Water Agency sanitation zone and district service areas. She makes site visits at restaurants, wineries, cheese producers, hospitals and hotels, to name several examples, and helps them on a number of regulatory issues, including with permitting, pretreatment



and pollution prevention programs, and the fats, oils and grease program.

She's active in the Russian River Watershed Association, where her main focus is the Safe Medicine Disposal Program ([www.safemedicinedisposal.org](http://www.safemedicinedisposal.org)), which began in 2007 as a Water Agency pilot program.

She graduated from the University of California, Davis, with a bachelor's degree in bacteriology. She also has a Grade II Environmental Compliance Inspector Certificate issued by the

California Water Environment Association (CWEA), and is working on her Grade III. ●

## Preparing for Natural Disasters

As Californians, we know that floods, fires and earthquakes are inevitable. The District wants to be sure that service will continue when the next natural disaster occurs. The District is currently assessing potential vulnerabilities that may cause disruption to service and invites the public to participate in this process. For more information, please contact Curran Price at [curran.price@scwa.ca.gov](mailto:curran.price@scwa.ca.gov) or 707.524.1179. ●

## Watch What You Flush

To keep household and community sewer systems operating around the clock with maintenance costs kept to a minimum, your District asks customers to please do not use their toilets as trash cans. To put it as tactfully as possible, human waste and toilet paper should be all that's flushed down the toilet.

Topping the list of the biggest offenders that should never be flushed down the toilet (even if the product's packaging says "flushable" or "disposable") are wet wipes, diapers, dental floss, facial tissues, paper towels, coffee grounds, sanitary products (including plastic tampon applicators), underwear, toys, medicine and medications, makeup, hair, seeds, grease, kitty box litter and cigarette butts.

The Water Agency and other partners sponsor the Safe Medicine Disposal Program to allow for the safe disposal of

## Never Pour FOG Down Sink

You can do your part to help prevent sanitary sewer overflows by properly disposing of fats, oils and grease, referred to as "FOG".

FOG, which among other items includes frying and cooking oils, salad dressings, soups, meat trimmings and bacon fat, often gets washed into the public sewer system through the kitchen sink. FOG should never be poured down the drain because it can adhere to the insides of household and local sewer pipes, clog them and cause sewer backups, and/or overflows into the environment, and increased customer sewer rates to pay for sewer maintenance and plumbing repairs.



*A sewer line clogged with fat and grease.*

Your District provides FREE grease scrapers to help you keep FOG from going down the drain. Call the Water Agency Public Affairs Hotline at 707.524.6430. ●

unused and unwanted medications. To find the closest drop-off location to you, visit [www.safemedicinedisposal.org](http://www.safemedicinedisposal.org) or contact Susan Keach, Environmental Compliance Inspector, at 707.521.1820 or [susan.keach@scwa.ca.gov](mailto:susan.keach@scwa.ca.gov). ●

Russian River County Sanitation District  
c/o Sonoma County Water Agency  
404 Aviation Blvd.  
Santa Rosa CA 95403

PRESORTED STANDARD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
SANTA ROSA, CA  
PERMIT NO. 64

## High-Efficiency Fixture Program

The District offers a limited number of high-efficiency fixture retrofits at no cost to all properties with active sewer connections. The High-Efficiency Fixture Direct Install Program includes toilet, urinal, faucet aerator and showerhead replacements.

To participate, you must register your property on the program wait list.

Properties will be selected on a first come, first served basis based on funding availability. For more information or to register, go online to [www.sonomacountywater.org/direct-install](http://www.sonomacountywater.org/direct-install) to sign up on the waiting list or call the Water Efficiency Program at 707.547.1918. ●



## Water Efficiency Rebate Program

District customers may participate in the following Rebate Program:

**Clothes Washer Rebate** – Receive up to \$125 back on the purchase and installation of a new, qualifying high-efficiency clothes washer (HEW). Rebates are available for all “Tier 3” listed clothes washers except those containing silver ion technology.

**Toilet Rebate** – Get up to \$150 back on the purchase and installation of each new, qualifying high-efficiency toilet (HET) from the List of Qualifying Models.

Rebates on high-efficiency clothes washers and toilets are available on a first come, first served basis through June 30, 2014, while funding lasts. For more information, call the Water Efficiency Program at 707.547.1918 or go online to [www.sonomacountywater.org/sanitation-rebates](http://www.sonomacountywater.org/sanitation-rebates). ●

*Securing our Future by Investing in our Water Resources, Environment & Community*

[www.sonomacountywater.org](http://www.sonomacountywater.org)

